

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8, 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are pending for consideration in the present application. Claims 9, 17 – 19, 26, 29 and 30 are canceled, wherein claims 19, 29 and 30 are being canceled by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 – 8, 10 – 16, 19 – 25 and 27 – 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 29706969 U1. Claim 1 and 8 are independent claims. Applicants are clarifying an aspect of each of claims 1 and 8 that is neither disclosed nor suggested by DE 29706969 U1.

In both amended claims 1 and 8 the term "installation location" has been replaced by the term "coupling location", which is disclosed in the specification as filed, in the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 26 (and in publication US 2006/0142876 A1, paragraph 0023). Further, both claims 1 and 8 are respectively supplemented by features derived from original claims 18 and 19, i.e., that "the configuration device is part of a permanent wiring, to which the intelligent unit can be coupled, or is associated with a connecting device disposed at the coupling location for connection of the intelligent unit". Moreover, the term "data" has been changed to "configuration data".

DE 29706969 U1 describes an apparatus for saving system configuration data for the purpose of prevention of the loss of data if a concerning electronic system is to be replaced. However, in DE 29706969 U1, no hint is given to a configuration device that is connected to a coupling location of an intelligent unit, wherein the configuration device is part of a permanent wiring, to which the intelligent unit can be coupled, or is associated with a connecting device disposed at the coupling location for connection of the intelligent unit.

In DE 29706969 01 U1, the plug-in module, i.e. the apparatus for saving system-configuration data, has to be removed from the electronic control unit, i.e., the electronic system,

to which it is normally connected, if, for example, the defect electronic control unit is to be replaced by another one (cf. English translation, page 2, lines 17-24). Thus, in DE 29706969 U1, the plug-in module, during replacement of the electronic control unit takes place, has no connection to the installation nor to the coupling location, and therefore the removed plug-in module can be easily mixed up, by mistake, with another plug-in module belonging to another control unit and/or storing other configuration data.

In contrast to DE 29706969 U1, the configuration device according to amended claim 1 and 8 remains at the coupling location even if an intelligent unit is to be replaced. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 8 are novel over DE 29706969 U1.

Claims 2 – 7 and 31 depend from claim 1. Claims 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28 and 32 depend from claim 8. By virtue of these dependencies, claims 2 – 7, 10 – 16, 20 – 25, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are also novel over DE 29706969 U1.

Claims 19, 29 and 30 are canceled, and as such, the rejection thereof is rendered moot.

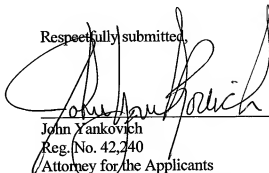
Applicants are requesting reconsideration and a withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1 – 8, 10 – 16, 19 – 25 and 27 – 32.

As mentioned above, Applicants are clarifying an aspect of each of claims 1 and 8. Additionally, Applicants are amending claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 – 16 and 31 for consistency with the claims from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request

favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Yankovich", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date

3 SEP 2010